

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGR-01 ABF-01 AF-10
ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15
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PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, GATT
SUBJECT: GATT BUDGET

REF: GENEVA 5586

1. DG LONG MET WITH KEY DELS APRIL 17 TO DISCUSS GATT
BUDGET CYCLE FOR PREPARING 1979 BUDGET. LONG OUTLINED
PROBLEM HIS STAFF FACES IN ESTIMATING COMPOSITION OF
BUDGET TAKING INTO ACCOUNT MTN RELATED COSTS. ON THE
ONE HAND, ASSUMING THE MTN MEETS ITS SELF-IMPOSED DEAD-
LINES, THE SECRETARIAT WOULD WANT TO PHASE OUT THE
TEMPORARY MTN BUDGET OF 4.9 MILLION SWISS FRANCS (SF).
ON THE OTHER HAND THE MTN IS LIKELY TO CONCLUDE AGREE-
MENTS WHICH WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL SECRETARIAT STAFF
TO SUPPORT. GIVEN THE PRESENT UNCLEAR VIEW OF 1979
EXPENDITURES, LONG SUGGESTED TWO ALTERNATIVES: (1) THE
SECRETARIAT COULD FOLLOW ITS USUAL PROCEDURE OF PREPAR-
ING ITS ESTIMATES IN JUNE AND SUBMIT A PARTIAL BUDGET
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IN MID-JULY RELATING TO KNOWN ELEMENTS WITH A SUBMISSION
OF A SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET LATER IN THE YEAR TO COVER MTN
RELATED MATTERS, OR (2) DELAY THE BUDGET CYCLE FOR SIX
WEEKS IN ORDER TO SEE IF THE SITUATION IS CLEAR BY
MID-JULY AND BETTER ESTIMATES FOR 1979 CAN BE PREPARED.
ALL DELS EXCEPT INDIA AND JAPAN SUPPORTED THE SECOND
ALTERNATIVE, AND LONG INDICATED THAT SECRETARIAT DRAFT

BUDGET DOCUMENT WOULD BE SUPPLIED TO DELS BY END OF AUGUST WITH BUDGET COMMITTEE SCHEDULED FOR MID-OCTOBER. LONG ALSO INDICATED, SHOULD PICTURE FOR 1979 STILL BE UNCLEAR BY MID-JULY, THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY FOLLOW FRENCH DEL'S SUGGESTION TO CARRY 1978 BUDGET INTO 1979 ADDING A CORRECTION FACTOR WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO BUILD UP A DETAILED BUDGET FUNCTION BY FUNCTION. CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE (FEIJ, NETHERLANDS) OPINED THAT PROBLEM IS PRIMARILY ONE OF COMPOSITION OF BUDGET RATHER THAN INCREASE IN SIZE SINCE TWO OPPOSING TENDENCIES ARE LIKELY IN 1979: A DECREASE IN THE TEMPORARY BUDGET AND AN INCREASE IN PERMANENT STAFF. LONG, AT ONE POINT, SAID THAT INCREASES IN PERSONNEL WOULD NOT BE IN SAME PROPORTION AS DECREASES.

2. LONG ALSO ALERTED DELS TO POTENTIAL PROBLEM WITH GATT COMMERCIAL POLICY TRAINING COURSES FOR OFFICIALS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THIS COURSE IS PARTIALLY SUPPORTED BY UNDP, AND HE SAID THAT UNDP HAS DECIDED TO ALTER ITS PROCEDURES. UNDP INTENDS TO TRANSFER FINANCING FOR THESE COURSES FROM ITS INTERREGIONAL PROJECTS TO COUNTRY PROGRAMING FUNDS. THIS WOULD NECESSITATE EACH COUNTRY ASSIGNING PRIORITIES TO THE FUNDS IT RECEIVES FROM UNDP AND DECIDING WHETHER OR NOT IT WANTED TO SEND OFFICIALS TO THE TRAINING COURSE. THE GATT, WHICH NOW SCREENS APPLICATIONS AND LIMITS THE COURSE TO 20, MIGHT BE FORCED TO ACCEPT ALL CANDIDATES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANY COUNTRY WISHED TO OFFER. LONG BELIEVES THAT THIS WOULD LEAD TO INEFFICIENCY AND TIME DELAYS AND OPPOSES THE NEW UNDP PROCEDURES. HE HAS APPEALED TO THE UNDP AND EXPECTS AN ANSWER BY MID-JUNE. LONG SAYS THAT IF UNDP INSISTS ON ITS PLANNED COURSE, CPS WILL HAVE TWO OPTIONS: (1) TO DISCONTINUE THE TRAINING COURSE OR (2) TO FINANCE THE \$260,000 NOW FUNDED BY UNDP. VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

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